Fellowship in Prayer

"For a world united in prayer"

"O Thou who art the Source of life and love, we praise thee for our creation and preservation, for the love which binds us together in families, and for thy favors which fill our days. Give us a keen sense of the possibilities of each fleeting moment. So may we find life's true meaning." Amen.

Volume VIII June, 1957 Number 3

OUR PURPOSE

"To promote the practice of prayer among *all* religious faiths whose fundamental belief is in God, regardless of race, creed, or color, and whose tenets include the universal attributes of truth honesty, justice and mercy, that thereby there may arise a closer relation to Almighty God and a deeper spirit of fellowship among mankind."

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER

22 E. 29th Street New York 16, N. Y.

Volume VIII June, 1957 Number 3

Life..The Beautiful

Life Is Not a Treadmill, a Jail, or a Place of Punishment; Life Is a Beautiful and Fascinating Field of Endeavor and Enterprise, with Inspiring Horizons of Newer and Greater Fields Beckoning Ever Onward ⚜ Work, Opportunity, Effort, Service Are Blessings to Enrich Your Life, and Make It Truly Worth Living ⚜ Blessed Is the Man Who Does His Work Joyfully!

GRENVILLE KLEISER

PEOPLE OF PRAYER

By Robert Wells Youngs, D.D.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." *(James 5:16).*

To effectively add strength to the fight of good over evil throughout the world, we *MUST* be People of Prayer.

During the war, in training as Navy Chaplain, I was sent to the fire fighters' school at Bainbridge. Several structures representing various parts of a ship were erected on a large field. A raging fire fed by controlled streams of kerosene provided the students with realistic practice in entering the structure and putting out the furious flames.

When it came my turn to carry the heavy hose nozzle, we were to crawl into what was supposed to be the engine room of the ship keeping down as close to the deck as possible to avoid the smoke and fire. In my eagerness to get the job done and get out as speedily as possible, I stood up only to be brought low by the instructor shouting in my ear, "On your KNEES, Padre, on your KNEES; you can't put out the fire if you don't get down on your knees!" If we would put out the fires of evil which seem to overcome the world, we must indeed get down on our knees in Prayer.

Behind prayer is the spirit of it—as fervent as the fire itself, as spontaneous and direct as the effort of the man with the hose. There is no time for discussion, analysis or study about its effectiveness albeit the theologian, philosopher and psychologist must weigh their criticisms, raise their questions and consider methods and formulas. All these make their contribution toward understanding, but it would be a mistake for us, as individuals, to restrain or modify our prayer life, permitting such studies of prayer to interfere with or retard the spontaneous naturalness of our prayers with their attendant power, joy and comfort.

Rather than to take Prayer apart, let us assume that Prayer is all that men have found it to be in the great lessons of history—the Day of Pentecost when the followers of Jesus, poor, illiterate, uncouth, underprivileged peasants in a tiny province of mighty Rome, met together in Prayer — something happened which literally *CHANGED THE WORLD.*

These followers of Jesus,

praying together, suddenly broke through the barriers of time and space into the *spiritual* world. We read that "suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind and it filled the house where they were sitting . . . and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

Few of us can appreciate the wonder of this event. Breaking through the barrier of time and space seems incredible and yet today we acknowledge that science has broken through many barriers, sending our aviators high into the heavens far beyond the barrier of sound. Materialistic developments have brought great changes to the world we live in. But there is also a spiritual world for our consideration.

Some thirty years ago, Charles Steinmetz said to Roger Babson:

"I think in the future the greatest discovery will be made along spiritual lines. Here is a force which history clearly teaches has been the greatest power in the development of men and history. Yet we have been merely playing with it, and have never seriously studied it as we have the physical forces. Some day people will learn that material things do not bring happiness and are of little use in making men and women creative and powerful. Then the scientists of the world will turn their laboratories over to the study of God and prayer and the spiritual forces which, as yet, have hardly been scratched."

Prayer benefits and changes those who do the praying. It so changed the followers of Jesus from that Day of Pentecost that "people were amazed and confounded by the transformation that they saw". Down through the ages, prayer has brought boldness to the shy, courage to the timid, magnetic leadership to the unattractive, eloquence to the illiterate and virtue to the wicked. Through prayer poor men have found wealth of possession; uneducated men, wealth of wisdom; unfortunate men, wealth of happiness. Yes, prayer changes those praying.

Prayer benefits and changes those for <u>whom</u> we pray. Did not Tennyson have King Arthur asking for prayers in his behalf, saying:

"More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer

Both for themselves and those
Who call them friend!
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

Sometimes when he felt especially strong, Martin Luther was known to say, "I feel as though I were being prayed for." In World War I, when the enemy was stopped at the Marne, Lord Kitchener exclaimed, "Someone has been praying." We DO help to sustain, strengthen, and remedy conditions for others by praying in their behalf.

When prayer breaks into the spiritual realm, it can effect changes even in nature. Dr. Grenfell floated out to sea on a cake of ice when, for no apparent reason, the wind changed to just the right direction long enough for him to be saved. He attributed the shift in wind to prayer alone.

Scotch Covenanters hid in a cave praying that their persecutors, who were in hot pursuit, might not find them. The pursuers passed by the cave, for the entrance was covered by an unbroken spider web. Prayer was answered in the spider and its protecting web.

Prayer leaves nothing to chance: recall Captain Eddie Richenbacher, stranded at sea, dying of hunger, thirst and exposure and Johnny Bartek who told the story?—

"As soon as we were in the rafts at the mercy of God, we realized that we were not in any condition to expect help from Him. We spent many hours of each day confessing our sins to one another and to God. . .

"Then we prayed, - and God answered. It was real. We needed water. We prayed for water and we got water—all we needed. Then we asked for fish, and we got fish. And we got meat when we prayed. Sea gulls don't go around sitting on people's heads waiting to be caught! On that eleventh day when those planes flew by, we all cried like babies. It was then I prayed again to God and said: 'If you'll send that one plane back for us I promise I'll believe in you and tell everyone else.' That plane came back, and the others flew on. It just happened? It did not! God sent that plane back!"

"The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." No single prayer is lost. But if we are to be People of Prayer we *MUST LIVE* lives of prayer—wholeheartedly, continuously. The world is full of God who waits for us to pray with sufficient faith and fervor to break through into the spiritual world where prayer *CAN* change all things and the hearts of *ALL* people.

PRAY THROUGH

Pray while you work, for one brief moment pause
And ask the Father to send strength and grace,
As well as wisdom to accomplish tasks,
Hard tasks, that are so difficult to face.

Pray when in doubt. . .a short time spent with God,
May save long years of sorrow and regret.
Ask for His holy guidance, and the light
He sends, may clear dark paths with obstacles beset.

Pray long at eventide, for prayer may lift
The soul to heights where weariness may cease
And bodies racked with pain, and hearts distressed
May find the heavenly gift of rest and peace.

-- Anna M. Carroll.

I AM ORDERLY IN MY THINKING, AND A SPIRIT OF ORDER IS MAINTAINED IN MY LIFE AND AFFAIRS

It is said that "order is heaven's first law." If our lives lack order and harmony, we need to entertain orderly thoughts. If this seems difficult to do, we can remember that God gave us authority to choose the direction that our thoughts take. We can ask for His help in thinking peaceful, happy, living thoughts. As we affirm divine order and harmony in our minds, we shall witness a decided improvement in our thinking.

If our bodies seem to lack vitality and strength, we need not become fearful. Instead, we can pray with faith and know that divine order and harmony are the rule in our bodies. Soon the natural health of Spirit will prevail.

Through right thinking we put first things first. We maintain a spirit of order in our lives and affairs. We are divinely led to take the right steps at the right time. All that concerns us is in divine order, and we rejoice.

(Sent by Rev. F. J. Compson)

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MAKE YOUR LIFE WORTH LIVING

By Grenville Kleiser

BEGIN EACH day with prayer and gratutude. Be thankful for life and the opportunity to serve. Ask for divine guidance.

Keep your mind upon a high level of constructive thinking. Put your lofty ideals into actual practice.

* * *

LIFE IS WORTH LIVING if you are growing daily in nobility of character, if you are rendering unselfish service to others, if you are meeting your responsibilities and obligations with courage and fidelity.

LIFE IS WORTH LIVING if you are progressing in spiritual understanding; if, despite the sin, sickness and sorrow in the world, you still keep strong and radiant.

LIFE IS TRANSCENDENTLY WORTH LIVING if you are developing assurance of your alliance with God and your implicit dependence upon Him.

THE MAN OF FAITH makes the most of today and faces the stern facts of life fearlessly. He sees persons, problems and possessions in true perspective. His clear vision gives him confidence in the future.

Marcus Aurelius put it in these stimulating words:

"Show those qualities that are altogether in thy power—sincerity, gravity, endurance of labor, aversion to pleasure, contentment with thy lot and with few things, benevolence, frankness, and magnanimity."

MAKE THE MOST OF TODAY. Translate your good intentions into actual deeds. Know that you can do what ought to be done. Improve your plans. Keep a definite goal of achievement constantly in view. Realize that work well and worthily done makes life truly worth living.

MAKE A BIGGER, BETTER PLAN. Ask yourself:

1. What goal do I wish to reach?
2. Am I efficient?
3. Have I a pleasing personality?
4. Do I make good use of spare time?
5. What faults should I overcome?
6. Is my character praiseworthy?
7. Am I an enthusiastic worker?
8. Do I readily attract friends?
9. Can I concentrate well?
10. Have I faith in my future?

TO MAKE YOUR LIFE WORTH LIVING rise above petty personal considerations, and see life in its broad significance. Look at the sky and recognize the sublime evidence that you are a citizen of the immeasurable universe. The man of faith finds life worth living because

he looks forward to each day as a preparation for a still better and happier life to come.

IT IS BETTER TO TALK OF HEALTH, progress, happiness and success, than of the contrary things. It is better to think of the beautiful, truthful, inspiring, and ideal, than the opposite thoughts. It is better to be cheerful, confident, expectant and enthusiastic than to indulge in destructive feelings. Knowing this, the right course is clearly open. Resolve to make your life worth living.

(From manuscripts left to FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER).

TEACH ME TO PRAY

Teach me to pray as mountains lift their peaks
As silent pines lift pinacles of praise;
As rising billows lift and bare their breasts;
As earth, at dawn, her symphony doth raise!

Teach me to pray as open-throated thrush
Or as the nightingale, lost on her song;
As deodars, sweet-sighing in a hush;
As the breath of fragrant winds pervading long!

Teach me to offer all that I possess
On the altar where my gift is laid;
Knowing that my all cannot express
The Love that makes me wise and unafraid!

O! Teach me to pray as all of nature prays
In a million sacrificial ways!

--Gertrude Roberts Rugh.

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"The Life of Duty, not the life of mere ease or pleasure; that is the kind of life which makes the Great Man as it makes the Nation."

-- Theodore Roosevelt.

FORGIVENESS AND GOOD LIVING

By Roy Wallace Thomas

Basic to the true enjoyment of life is a clear conscience. Sin is universal for every man faces the same struggle—the growth from animal levels to spiritual maturity. "Sin is lawlessness", violation of the laws of well-being. Men need forgiveness because of guilt, for sin always soils. Guilt is the deep hurt in the personality caused by wrong-doing. Guilt disorganizes the self, destroys poise and peace of mind, wastes the energy of body, mind and spirit. There is no sickness worse than guilt. When a normal man sins he feels guilty.

Sin cuts the soul off from the Father's love, and we were made for love. In Jesus' famous parable of the Lost Son *(Luke 15)* the prodigal in the far country of sin returned to his father not only because of physical hunger but also because his soul was starved. He had gone forth impelled by an eager thirst for life. The urge for life is good but he erred by seeking life in wrong ways. Sin follows wrong paths in the quest for life. No one can find full life by turning his back to the Father's love.

But the prodigal found his mistake. He learned from the wages of sin. No tax is so dire as that levied by sin. Sin gives husks for bread. When the boy came to himself he was stricken by guilt. He said, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." "And he arose, and came to his father." More important than the food that saved his body was the bread of the father's forgiveness that fed and healed his soul.

Forgiveness is a profound relationship between the offender and the one offended. It is never one-sided. The father's heart was broken by his son's wilful abuse of freedom. Steadfastly ready to forgive, the father ached in every nerve as he stood at the gate yearning for the return of his son. But a remedy cannot cure until taken. The father's love could not heal until accepted. Forgiveness is not actual until the offender repents, for repentance puts the wayward son into the arms of his father. Then forgiveness is real and love restores.

Forgiveness is love at work. in God's forgiveness spiritu-

al energy passes into the heart of the repentant sinner and gives strength for weakness. Repentance is the sweetest incense known to heaven because it is return to love, and love is healing. It was the memory of his father's unfailing love that brought the lost son to his senses. Had there been no pull of love in the background, the prodigal would have been overwhelmed by despair. This parable is a picture of our Father's love and its meaning for man. God's welcome to the repentant sinner is complete.

God's love can wipe away all guilt in spite of the fact that forgiveness cannot change past history. The dreadful facts of the son's waywardness still stand. They are a part of Jesus' immortal story. Paul could not bring the murdered Stephen back to life. But both the prodigal and Paul were given clean new pages on which to write a new, sublime story. If forgiveness cannot alter the past, it can determine the future. The healed soul may begin again. God never holds a man's past against him when he truly repents. God is lavish with new opportunities for the forgiven soul. Saul, "foremost of sinners," by repentance became Paul, first among the apostles in the quality of his love and the extent of his helpfulness to others.

Forgiveness has both a personal and a social value. Repentance on the one hand and forgiveness on the other makes men right with themselves and right with their neighbors. It is the condition for peace in the soul and for peace among men. Good living at the highest, in the simple but profound words of Micah, is "to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God." And this, in the fine phrase of Washington Gladden, is "the practice of immortality."

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PRAYER:

Teach us, O God, how to rule ourselves
To be rigorous in the keeping of body and mind
To discipline our lives with a firm hand
So that no sloth or self-indulgence
No failure in the training of
Thy gifts to us may mar the work of
Thy Kingdom. Amen.

--Theodore Carswell Hume.
(Used by courtesy of Mrs. E. H. Hume).

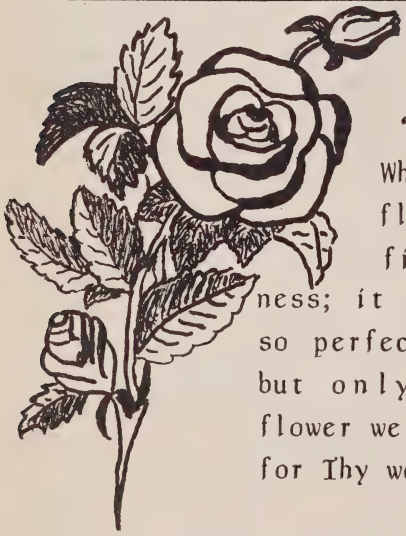
"FORGIVENESS"

Forgive as you would be forgiven.
Such is the law of God and heaven.
The scale of seventy times seven
Means the nth power of love's leaven.
When you forgive, you free the mind
Of poison's rank that coil and wind
Their tentacles of anger and hate
About your life at a swift rate.

When you forgive, you see the God
In those who put you "neath the rod".
You raise them to a higher plane
Where all commingle in love's reign.
When you forgive, true love's essence
Leads you to that inner Presence
Which cleans and purifies your life
Of all stain of debasing strife.

-- Thomas á Kempis

(Sent by Pauline A. Taylor)



THE ROSE

A MEDITATION

"O God, the God of all creation, Who hast made the rose, king of flowers, comely, beautiful, dignified, yet full of grace and sweetness; it is indeed the work of Thy hands, so perfect that no man could fashion it but only Thou. For this most beautiful flower we give Thee thanks, and praise Thee for Thy wonderful creation." Amen.

THE ZEST OF LIFE

Life is not as idle ore,
But iron dug from central gloom;
And heated hot with burning fears
And plunged in baths of hissing tears
And battered with the shocks of doom,
To shape and use.

-- Alfred Tennyson.

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To some folk, life has lost its zest. It seems no longer to have light and color and interest. It ceases to be attractive, and becomes mundane. Frustration results, followed frequently by some hopeless escape method. All to no avail. Where lies the fault?

Many people today find life uninteresting because they have taken life too casually. The stress, strain, and frustration in a multitude of lives is due to purposeless living. They drift from day to day without any real aim, goal or purpose.

What one needs is guidance and direction, which comes to everyone whose life is linked with God. A god-related life is never a frustrated life. When our life ties in with God's plan we are committed to a program and a cause which demands our best. Then, whatever we do becomes important, and therefore attractive, colorful and meaningful.

Life is without zest without God.

-- *G. L. Markle.*

* * *

Wouldst thou love life? Then do not squander time,
for that is the stuff life is made of.

-- *Benjamin Franklin.*

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"Our life is like a wonderful instrument in which rests untold music and harmony—let the Master use the life, and bring from it a symphony of rare beauty. However weak the instrument it will be most powerful if wielded by God."
(Author Unknown).

"An aim in life is the only fortune worth finding, and it is not to be found in foreign lands, but in the heart itself." -- Robert Louis Stevenson.

Look upward, Climber,
Feet and hands keep busy;
Hesitation and looking down
These make one dizzy.

-- *A. E. Johnson.*

ONE OF THE MOST DURABLE SATISFACTIONS IN LIFE IS TO LOSE ONESELF IN ONE'S WORK.

--*Harry Emerson Fosdick.*

If the pattern of life looks dark to you,
And the threads seem twisted and queer,
To the One Who is planning the whole design,
It's perfectly plain and clear . . .

For it's all part of God's loving plan,
When He works in His threads of gray,
And they'll only make brighter
The rose and gold of another happier day.

(Author Unknown)

The secret of LIFE is not to do what one likes, but to try to like what one has to do.

Dinah Muloch Craik.

THE MEANING OF LIFE, ITS PURPOSE AND ALL ITS JOYS, COME OUT OF BEING ABLE AND READY TO HELP OTHERS— TO MAKE PERSONAL SACRIFICES FOR A BROTHER'S SAKE.

-- Sir Wilfred Grenfell

The clock of life is wound but once . . .
And no man has the power . . . To tell
just when the hands will stop . . . At
late or early hour . . . Now is the only
time you own . . . Live, love, toil with
a will . . . Place no faith in tomorrow
. . . The clock may then be still.

(Author Unknown)

MOST OF THE SHADOWS OF THIS LIFE
ARE CAUSED BY STANDING IN OUR OWN SUNSHINE.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Do not pray for easy lives,
Pray to be stronger men!

Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers,
Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

-- *Phillips Brooks.*

We live in the present, we dream of the future, but we learn eternal truths from the past. Madame Chiang Kai-shek.

We are never taller
Than upon our knees;
Never go further
Than when at ease.

-- A. E. Johnson.

"Always let unswerving integrity be your guide."

Bernard M. Baruch.

MENTAL STIMULATORS

LIFE IS SERVICE

By Carl Holmes

One of America's greatest preachers, the late Reverend Charles R. Brown, once addressed a group of students on a Western campus. He said, "I come from a larger university than this: It is larger than Columbia or Yale, or all the American universities combined. It is the University of Life. Our colors are black and blue for we learn our lessons by hard knocks. In this university there is only one examination day, and in that examination there is but one question: What is Life? Let us ask the Great Teacher of all the ages, and hear His answer by word and deed. He tells us that life is service, and He also reminds us that "whoever would be great must first render great service".

Success today is measured as never before in terms of service, rather than in terms of dollars. Competition makes service an increasingly important factor in getting and holding business. Never before was the need of service so great. In this highly competitive world service must be exceptional. Exceptional service means personalized service, friendly, cheerful, helpful, full measure and running over.

If we go "the extra mile" in service, we are likely to reap big dividends. The more we use our talents for others the more we develop them for ourselves. The more we give the more we receive. Taking good care of old customers is the best way to get new customers.

Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the world renowned musician, writer and philosopher, who at the age of thirty gave up these varied careers to enter a medical school to become a medical missionary in the heart of Africa said, "What the world lacks the most today is men who occupy themselves with the needs of other men. In this unselfish labor a blessing falls both on the helper and the helped."

We cannot buy happiness with money. It comes only when we do something for others. It is what we give of ourselves that makes life worth while. "For anything worth having one must pay the price; and the price is always work, patience, love, self-sacrifice—no paper currency, no promises to pay, but the gold of real service," says John Burroughs.

"Is life worth living?" is

the eternal question. The humorist replies, "It all depends on the liver." This is wonderfully true. It does all depend on you and how you live. We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. The greatest satisfactions come to those who live a life of real service. They have found that service to others is the greatest joy in life.

Life is measured not by the positions we hold, nor in terms of how many we can "lord it over", but in terms of how many we can serve and how much service we can give. The world has been slow to learn this lesson.

When two brothers asked Jesus for place cards on His right and left in His Kingdom, He made the amazing reply, "Whoever would be first among you must be servant of all." *(Mark 10:44)*. This is the standard by which Jesus first measured greatness. A glance at the names of men and women whom the world has called great, reveals that this is also the standard by which the world finally measures greatness. Life is service!

FOR OTHERS

Lord help me live from day to day
In such a self forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer might be. . .for Others.

Help me in all the things I do
To ever be sincere and true
And know that all I do for YOU,
I needs must do. . .for Others.

Help me that I may well discern
How best to use that which I earn,
Remembering, if I would better live
I must not hold but give. . .for Others.

Selected.

"Only a life lived for others is a life worth while."

LIFE

By Sara Robbins

LIFE is an activity—a persistent constant moving expression. To live is to be active—to be active is to express. To stand still is stagnation—stagnation is death. Expression is man's innate desire and nature's compelling law.

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Man's great reason for living is to express. To live is to express—to express is to do—and to do is to be active. Many worthy lives have wasted from inactivity, many great dreams have rotted in stagnation.

Happiness is something you must do. Success is something you must do. A doer is a happy person, for he is constantly expressing himself. Inertia is a form of death, inactivity stultifies and stagnates. Nothing in nature stands still—and man is no exception to this law. The statement that man must do or die has a greater significance than one suspects.

It is not so important what one does—the important thing is—that it be done. Each person serves according to his own capacity. What one does, where one serves, how one expresses are immaterial to nature. The important or unimportance of the act does not matter. *It is the activity that counts—for life demands active expression.*

Inaction breeds disease. Many an ailment: mental, physical and emotional can be conquered through action and expression. Action is a potent antidote for depressed feelings and a sluggist body. Action is a positive cure for self pity.

Act—and you express. Do—and you attain. Any goal, no matter what it is, needs a first act, needs a self starter. Start—you will find the power to carry you through—action releases energy.

The world loves a dreamer, but gives the reward to the doer. A doer is a creator. Do—*act*—and something is created! *Start*—and the world will help you. *Express*—and life will love you.

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WHATEVER IS TRUE

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Phil. 4:8).

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THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS

There is no litany in the Book that sings
More tenderly than "Think about these things."
The mighty truths of God by which we grow
Are in it, all the verities we know
Of sun and seed, all certitudes of earth;
All honorable, honest work and mirth;
Soft whispers of the prayers of all the just,
True-hearted folk who make the Lord their trust;
The purity that blossoms in white flowers
And children's eyes, and falls in dazzling showers
Of snow; each lovely leaf and wing that lifts
Our hearts; each good report of gracious gifts
Of love and mercy; every smallest deed
Of excellent virtue answering daily need;
And all the constant blessings of our days
Forever worthy of our heart-felt praise.

All this the Lord our God has given us
To grow profoundly, fervently aware
Of his unfailing providence and care.
This litany will equip our hearts with wings.
Leave doubt and worry. Think about these things.

* * *

(From THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS by Jane Merchant, Copyright 1956 by Pierce & Washabaugh. Used by permission of Abingdon Press, Pub.)

A L I V E!

It so happened that on Sunday, May 19th, two articles appeared side by side in parallel columns of the Editorial Section of THE NEW YORK TIMES. They had no bearing on each other save for the fact that each strongly directed attention, unwittingly perhaps, to our reliance on God.

One was a factual report on the opening of the Billy Graham "campaign for the spiritual awakening of the people of New York City"—Billy Graham seeking to reach the multitudes who came to hear him extend his invitation to "come forward for a personal encounter with God" in the hope that the pledge card once signed would carry them back to the church to which they once belonged, or that the pledge would be an introduction to their first church membership, the more efficiently to lead a Christian life.

The Press seems to concede that Billy Graham is no stormy evangelist, basing his success on personal fervor or a surge of emotional excitement. Rather they find him a man of deep sincerity, expressing an utter reliance on God and His Word. Whether or not one approves the well-planned approach to the community he seeks to inspire, does not, in the least, lessen the strength of his message. It is doubtful, however, that the majority of New Yorkers feel that New York is the horribly wicked city of sin that Dr. Graham would have us carry on our conscience. The Reverend Joseph Zeitlin of Riverside Synagogue, New York City, in defending its citizenry sums it up: "Upon deep reflection, one comes to the conclusion that the message of real religion is heard not in turbulent voices, but rather in the still small voice of spiritual regeneration. In the same spirit, we must feel that if the religious revival saves *but ONE* lost soul, it will have accomplished a high purpose."

Sin there is, but the Word of God is very much alive in New York City. We doubt if there is any acknowledged sect, any religious movement whether "orthodox" or "reformed", any philosophical society of standing but that has its following in the city—all working toward the spiritual and physical betterment of mankind. Faith is strong!

How close we may be to God, and how fundamental our reliance on Him, is emphasized in the other editorial—that of

little Benjamin Hooper, Jr. who was rescued from the well shaft, twenty-one feet deep and only twelve inches in diameter in Manorville, Long Island. That story of community hope, courage and prayer was widely circulated. We wonder if *YOUR* prayers did not mingle with those of the parents and townsfolk whose prayers were spontaneous, personal and from their hearts. Sam Woolson, the man who brought the little boy out was, as he said, "directed by God how to do it." He felt himself no hero "with all those people praying there." He was only the one "selected" in answer to their prayers.

Life is always in honest prayer.

As the daily news reaches us, do we lament? - are we indignant - or do we righteously criticize the great struggles, the tragedies, the disgraces of the day - or do we react spontaneously and combat them with prayer? Wherein lies the strength of the Reverend Martin Luther King in his leadership in our conflicts of desegregation? His quiet demeanor might command in any situation, but only prayer and his reliance on prayer could so imbue a people that they move forward with a prayerful, never a violent force.

Are we quick to take sides sharply on the political controversies across our country or do we consider them prayerfully in order to bring wisdom and fairness to our answer? We may well be grateful for men of prayer among government and business leaders. In the words of President Eisenhower's message to the Congressional Prayer Breakfast early in the year, "In the company of fellow-believers, united in faith and hope, there is strength for renewed effort to serve God and our neighbor. In such a spirit, the magnitude of our common task diminishes: the obstacles of the accomplishment become less and less formidable."

On April first a call to prayer was heard from the minaret of the beautiful new mosque of the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C. Does this reminder that prayer is universal bring new hope to our family of nations?

No problem is too great, no emergency too imminent, no expression too faltering, that prayer from any heart, in any language, any place or under any circumstance, cannot meet.

Hope springs to Life with every prayer and Faith carries it to fulfillment.

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A FRESH START

By Mildred Seydell

THE CHINESE SAY: *"The glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time you fall."*

Errors, mistakes, things we wish undone, things we wish we had never done, daily make up our living. As long as our minds are not free from ignorance we cannot go our way without falling. The path we tread is made of hardships, rocky places, ruts of routine; easy to trip. The glory comes in the new start.

Laid low by mishaps, bad luck or poor judgment? But aren't we all, constantly? The failures are those who let discouragement keep them low. The successes are those who get up for a new try.

It is not humanly possible to live without failing. But it is possible to fail and begin again. Match every fall with a rise—the reward will be rich.

Life's Transformation

By W. J. Thompson, D.D.

Once Handel, the great composer, found himself in a desperate situation. His right side was paralyzed, his money gone, and his creditors threatened to send him to prison.

But just then his mental and physical suffering spurred him on to the mightiest effort of his life. Writing feverishly, he composed *The Messiah*, with its immortal "Hallelujah Chorus" in twenty-four days.

If he had given up in self-pity, and refused to meet the tremendous challenge before him, the world would have been poorer, and so would we! Handel *turned misery into music and sorrow into song!*

A desperate situation sometimes proves to be the doorway to deliverance, if faced with firm faith in God plus your own earnest effort.

Accept difficulty and disappointments courageously and they become a challenge to greater effort, leading to shining achievements. No matter what happens, by God's help you can gain a victory out of defeat.

Even when it is plain that you have failed, there is still something you can do about it; namely, take it in the right spirit. Some fail the wrong way. When life hits hard they fall down and stay down. The right way is to get up after a fall, and ask God to help you stay on your feet, and go forward to success.

Solid Foundations

From THREE MINUTES A DAY

By James Keller

Some months ago work was begun on a new building on Park Avenue in New York City. At first things proceeded very slowly. Excavation for the foundation seemed endless. Day after day, week after week, the huge steam shovels dug deep into the ground, biting huge pieces of earth with their steel jaws, until one began to wonder if there ever would be a building erected at all...if there ever would be anything more than an immense hole in the ground.

But at last the work was completed and on the site there began to rise one of the newest and most modern skyscrapers in America—truly a "miracle of production."

So it is with the framework of our own lives. Just as no building can rise in strength and grandeur without a sound, solid foundation, neither can we hope for eternal success unless we sink our spiritual foundations deep and thus make strong and rich our hope for happiness in the life to come.

* * *

"Everyone therefore that heareth these My words, and doeth them, shall be likened to a wise man that built his house upon a rock."

(Matthew 7:24)

PRAYER:

"Most Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, source of all good, giver of every blessing, we praise and magnify Thy Holy Name. We thank Thee for all that we call our own, but most of all are we grateful for Thy gifts which we share with others; for the blue skies, the scented air of spring, the song of birds, the warm sunshine, and the refreshing rain. Suffer us not to lose our appreciation of life's greatest blessings simply because Thou hast given them freely and abundantly." Amen.

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I'm Thankful—I Am Rich!

By W. J. Thompson, D.D.

No matter what the stock exchange indicates, I am rich! I may have less to live on, but I certainly have just as much to live for! In fact, I am extremely wealthy, especially in the things that money cannot buy. **Character** means more than cash. **Gladness** is more precious than gold. **Serenity** of mind, heart, and soul exceeds the value of silver. My $200,000 **eyes** are treasures beyond computation. Each week I add to my $50,000 collection of beautiful scenes. My $100,000 **sense of hearing** is an inspiring possession, as I enjoy good music and listen to the laughter of little children. I have a million dollar **appetite**, which is a constant joy. My marvelous **friendships** are priceless gifts from God. I have a **sense of humor** that brings continual delight. Yes, I am rich, and I thank both God and man for giving me such amazing wealth **It is good to be alive!**

APPRECIATION

Our deep gratitude is extended to our loyal and ever-faithful Contributing Editors; to Miss LaVerne Moritz for the vignettes on the center spread and to all those, not otherwise recognized, for the following appearing herein—

PRAY THROUGH	*By Anna M. Carroll.*
I AM ORDERLY IN MY THINKING	*(Sent by Rev. F.J. Compson)*
TEACH ME TO PRAY	*By Gertrude Roberts Rugh.*
PRAYER	*By Theodore Carswell Hume (By courtesy of Mrs. E.H. Hume)*
"FORGIVENESS"	*By Thomas á Kempis (Sent by Pauline A. Taylor)*
THE ZEST OF LIFE	*By G. L. Markle (By courtesy of Bennie C. Hall)*
LIFE	*By Sara Robbins.*
SOLID FOUNDATIONS	*By James Keller (By permission of the Author)*
LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	*By Nick Kenny (Used by permission of the Author and THE NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR)*

NOTICES and COMMENTS

WORLD GOODWILL. From the office of the World Goodwill, our attention is again called to the story of the world prayer known as THE GREAT INVOCATION. World Goodwill is a movement organized for the banding together of men and women of goodwill throughout the world to aid in establishing right human relations. It has circulated this prayer in sixty-four languages among people of fifty countries:

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.
May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men--
The purpose which the Master knows and serves.

From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out.
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER. The past month brought a request from Calcutta, India for several copies of each issue, to be sent regularly, for distribution to libraries and English-speaking friends in Indua. From the Philippines came a similar request and copies are now en route carrying our message to new friends and workers. This is the way Fellowship in Prayer grows from month to month. The publication states and supports our purpose, which gains strength in the prayers of new friends.

" Rejoice evermore
" Pray without ceasing
" In everything give thanks:..."

(I Thess. 5:16, 17, 18).

" Fellowship in Prayer" is printed bi-monthly and the subscription rate is $2.00 per year. The organization is maintained by voluntary contributions which are tax exempt.

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Life Is Worth Living

Life is worth living
Wherever you are,
Deep down in a dungeon
Or high on a star.

Life is worth living;
It all has a plan
When God knows you're giving
The best that you can.

The saint and the sinner...
The great and the small...
We all are God's children
And He loves us all.

So pray when you're happy
And pray when you're blue,
For life is worth living
When God lives with you.

-- *Nick Kenny.*

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